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From an economic standpoint this district has not yet proved a dangerous rival of its sister regions farther north in the Cœur d'Alène Mountains. The valuable minerals are chiefly confined to the western slope of the Clearwater Mountains. Gold, in fissure veins and gravels, is the most important mineral. Some few prospects of copper, silver, and silver-lead ores have been worked. Elk City is the chief center of the mining industry of the region.

Some fair coal of a lignitic character, and of probably Tertiary age, has been discovered, but may not prove profitable on account of the thinness of the beds. This lignite is found in two rather remarkable associations. In one case the lignite is interbedded with rhyolitic flows, and in the other in a series of sediments intercalated in the Columbia River basaltic flows.

It is evident that this region, because of its great extent and rugged character could merely be skimmed over in a reconnaissance, and, doubtless, much of interest yet awaits the scientist and practical miner.

W. D. S.

"A New Marine Reptile from The Trias of California," *University of California Publications*, Vol. III, (1904), pp. 419-21.

Among the recent discoveries in vertebrate paleontology, none is of greater interest than that by Dr. Merriam of a new order of marine reptiles to which he has given the name Thalattosauria, from the typical genus Thalattosaurus Merriam, from the Upper Trias of California. This new order presents many of the peculiar aquatic adaptations of other well-known, marine saurians, though differing markedly in structure. The skull is elongate; the vomers (prevomers) and pterygoids are covered with flat, button-like teeth, primitive characters lost in all other marine reptiles, save the pterygoid teeth of the mosasaurs; the dorsal ribs are single-headed; and the bones of the limbs are short, though the pelvis is robust, indicating, either incomplete aquatic adaptation, or a short non-propelling tail. The order is related, the author thinks, more to the early rhynchocephaloid reptiles than to the ichthyosaurs. Further information concerning these strange reptiles will be awaited with interest.

S. W. W.

"Neue Zeuglodonten aus dem unteren Mitteleocen vom Mokattam bei Cairo," *Geologisch-Paläontologische Abhandlungen*, Vol. VI (1904), p. 199.

A startling suggestion as to the origin of the Zeuglodon "whales" is that given by Professor Fraas in a recent paper on the Zeuglodonts from

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the Eocene of Africa: "Systematisch betrachtet trenne ich die Archaeoceti vollständig von den Cetaceen und schliesse sie als Untergruppe an die Creodontier an, während die übrigen Walthiere nach wie vor eine selbständige Gruppe bilden, die so lange beliebig in der Systematik eingeschaltet werden kann, bis wir deren Stammesgeschichte kennen;" and his conclusion that these animals belong among the early carnivora seems well substantiated by him.

S. W. W.

"Teleorrhinus browni—a New Teleosaur in the Fort Benton," Bulletin of the American Museum of Natural History, Vol. XX (1904), p. 239.

Another discovery of much interest is that of a true teleosaur crocodile from the Benton Cretaceous, by Professor Osborn. That the teleosaurs should occur in America is perhaps not so remarkable as their occurrence in the Upper Cretaceous, all the forms hitherto known being from the Jurassic and Wealden of Europe. The specimen upon which Professor Osborn bases his new genus *Teleorrhinus* has a skull one meter in length, and typical teleosaurian vetebræ, the latest biconcave crocodile vertebræ known.

S. W. W.